



# Montgomery County Council

*From the Office of Councilmember Marilyn Praisner*

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**For Immediate Release**

**July 11, 2005**

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## **Statement by Councilmember Marilyn Praisner on the ICC**

"Governor Ehrlich's statement today that the ICC will improve the environment along its route is outrageous in its presumption. He repeats this mantra as if saying so will make it happen. What will happen is that the ICC will cause considerable, irreversible environmental damage. In fact, the legacy of this road will be its dire environmental consequences for both the Upper Rock Creek and the Upper Paint Branch watersheds, and particularly for the Upper Paint Branch, which has already experienced a dramatic decline in water quality as a result of development. Even more outrageous is the Governor's plan to mitigate this damage in the far northern reaches of Montgomery County, nowhere near the affected areas.

"The ICC has been sold to our citizens as the road that will "end gridlock." Yet the State's own recently issued study shows that in fact it will do little to ease Beltway traffic congestion and will actually *increase* congestion at a number of key interchanges, most notably at I-270, Route 97, and Route 29.

"Further, I am stunned to learn that Federal agencies that have raised concerns over the years have made such a brazen reversal of positions. After many years of opposing this road because of the environmental damage it would cause, they suddenly give this road a stamp of approval.

"Although I am pleased that the people along the Northern Alignment can now breathe more easily, all of us will have to live with this environmental disaster."

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